

On December 17, 1916, I located a flock of about thirty larks feeding on weed seeds in the fields east of Hamburg. Although there might have been some Prairie Horned Larks (*O. a. praticola*) present, all the individuals examined by me were undoubtedly Horned Larks. At very close range, I noted the deep sulphur-yellow throat and also the yellow line over the eye. I might add that I am very familiar with the resident subspecies, which is one of the characteristic birds of our open country.

On March 22, 1919, while walking across a large plowed field south of Hamburg, I had the good fortune to flush a flock of at least sixty larks. The individuals of this band were much wilder than Prairie Horned Larks, and would take wing without apparent cause, much resembling Pipits (*Anthus rubescens*) in this respect. I was somewhat disappointed on account of this fact, for I had not as yet been able to make the identification with my glass. However, it soon developed that the birds habitually wheeled about in the air and returned to near the spot from which they were originally flushed. When opportunity finally presented itself for work with the glass, I was both surprised and pleased to note that many members of the flock had so very much yellow on the head and throat that identification as *O. a. praticola* was out of the question. A fairly large percentage of the birds, however, were evidently duller, probably females.

Inasmuch as I do not recall finding comparisons of the notes of the two subspecies in the literature, it might be of interest to append here a few remarks on the calls and songs. It seemed to me that the ordinary notes uttered as *Otocoris alpestris alpestris* takes wing are decidedly sharper than similar ones of *O. a. praticola*. Several of the males were singing on March 22 — not the flight song, of course, but the ebullient gurgling which is usually uttered from the ground in the case of the resident subspecies. Although it might easily have been that only young males were singing, the song of *Otocoris alpestris alpestris*, as I heard it, was decidedly not as finished a performance as that of *O. a. praticola*. The initiated would immediately recognize it as belonging to some form of *Otocoris alpestris*, but it certainly lacked the smoothness of *O. a. praticola*, and the notes themselves were decidedly wilder.—THOMAS L. BOURNE, Hamburg, N. Y.*

Abnormal Beak of a Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris praticola*).—

While collecting on May 8, 1911, I secured a very interesting and curious example of natural abnormality — an adult Horned Lark with a peculiar enlargement of the lower mandible. This member, of a dull bone tint (abnormal even in color), projected at least nine thirty-seconds of an inch beyond the upper mandible, terminating in a very blunt tip slightly darker than elsewhere. The upper mandible was also somewhat exceptional, but reversed, being smaller than is usual with the species, by about two-sixteenths of an inch, the normal length being approximately seven-sixteenths.

The bird was feeding with one other on a newly cultivated field, and when taken a small spherical lump of mud was frozen on the long lower mandible, reminding one of the protected tip of a foil. The night before had been

very cold and the frozen ground, thawing under a warm morning sun, had been adhesive enough first to stick, then with the chill of the air to again congeal upon the projecting member as the bird sought its breakfast.

The Lark was in perfect physical condition when collected, notwithstanding the cumbersome disadvantage under which it lived, a circumstance as interesting to the teratologist and others as it is also surprising, considering the malformation of so highly essential an organ.— J. DEWEY SOPER, *Preston, Ontario.*

The Raven in Connecticut.— On May 25, 1919, we observed a Raven (*Corvus corax principalis*) about on the border line between the towns of Norwalk and Westport, Conn. The bird was circling over a large salt marsh. We observed it through 12-diameter binoculars. The soaring flight, the widespread primary feathers, large size, and coal-black color were clear without a glass. Through the glass we could see the heavy raven beak, and that the head was feathered and black, points that left no doubt in our minds of the identification of the bird. Both of us are familiar with the Raven in other regions where it is of more common occurrence.— CLIFFORD H. PANGBURN AND ARETAS A. SAUNDERS, *Norwalk, Conn.*

A Strange Blue Jay Flight.— May 25 of this year found me hunting warblers along a narrow tree-bordered roadway skirting a swamp, a few hundred yards from the beach of Lake Erie. By chance I looked up and saw five Blue Jays flying about fifty feet above the tree tops, and before my glance had ended others came into view and still others behind them. They were flying northeast and keeping very quiet. I began to count them, and in about fifteen minutes' time had seen ninety-five Jays. And this does not begin to number those that passed, for, on account of the trees, my view to each side was much restricted, and there is no telling how many had gone on before I casually looked up. They were in a long stream, with now and then a bunch of five to fifteen. Can any one suggest a plausible reason for Jays to be flying in such numbers during the nesting season?— E. A. DOOLITTLE, *Painesville, Ohio.*

Evening Grosbeaks about Beverly Farms, Mass.— In early May, when I moved to Beverly Farms from Florida, my neighbors, Mr L. A. Shaw and Mr. Gordon Means, spoke to me of the many Evening Grosbeaks which they had seen during the latter part of the winter. They told me that from 75 to 100 birds appeared about March 10 and were seen daily after that date. They never entered the woodland at all, but spent their entire time about the shrubberies and tree plantations of the lawns and gardens between Pride's Crossing and Beverly Farms. Their number was somewhat diminished when I saw them first about May 14, and on the night of May 19 all of the others disappeared from the neighborhood.— T. BARBOUR, *Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Mass.*